

**Montana Dental Association**

Constituent: AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION

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Mary K. McCue, J.D.

January 21, 2009

TO: Members, Senate Public Health, Welfare and Safety
FR: Mary McCue, Executive Director
Montana Dental Association

RE: SB 226

The members of the Montana Dental Association support SB 226 as one effort to provide more access to dental care for Montana citizens.

- The bill would allow a dentist or dental hygienist who is licensed in another state to secure a temporary license to practice in Montana at community health center dental clinics, university clinics, and correctional facilities.
- The non-resident dentist or dental hygienist must be licensed in another state in good standing and not have any disciplinary action pending in the other state.
- The bill provides that the Montana Board of Dentistry could adopt rules to establish the scope of practice of the temporary licensee and the number of days the licensee could practice in Montana each year. The Montana Dental Association contemplates the licensee would be restricted to practice 10-15 days per year.
- The license could be renewed annually.
- A dentist or dental hygienist with a temporary, volunteer license could not accept monetary or other compensation for providing services.
- A growing number of states are providing dental boards the authority to license volunteer dentists who agree to donate their services to under-served populations, in an attempt to improve access to care.